

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, research tells us that the best way to help children discover the joy of reading and become lifelong readers is to involve them early and often, and helping a child to learn and love to read improves students' chances for success in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, reading increases vocabulary, writing skills, and knowledge and it is important that youth understand current critical issues, events, and what is taking place in their own community, state, nation, and around the world; and

WHEREAS, by reading newspapers, students become familiar with a variety of issues that greatly broaden their minds, they can understand the past, see roles for themselves in the future, and learn of world leaders and those that make a difference in society, whereby serving as great role models for them; and

WHEREAS, **Newspaper in Education** (NIE) is an award winning international program promoting literacy by utilizing newspapers as a "living textbook" teaching tool, and newspapers can be used with all classroom subjects as a progressive resource, providing teachers from primary through adult education with contemporary informational text that engage students and relate academic learning to real-world experiences, and students who learn using the newspaper become more engaged citizens as adults, and schools with NIE programs do better in reading scores than those students without access to this valuable tool; and

WHEREAS, an initiative of the American Press Institute, *Newspaper in Education Week*, has been celebrated annually during the first full school week in March, and the program provides newspapers and original award-winning curriculum supplements to classrooms and it is vital that access to quality materials and resources be provided for in-home and in-school learning, and NIE has produced twelve original educational publications, three of which won national awards from the National Newspaper Association; and

WHEREAS, for more than a half a century, the *Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education* program has served educators, students, and families throughout the community by providing classrooms sets of Pulitzer Prize-winning Tampa Bay Times digital and print newspapers, educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and other resources in Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas counties at no cost to the schools, teachers or students.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim March 4-8, 2024, as

"NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION WEEK"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens, students, and adults to read newspapers, and thank *Newspapers in Education* and the *Tampa Bay Times* for their efforts in the education of the youth in our community and nation.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6th day of February 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor